

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-26. Canceled

27. (Original) A method of treating a patient having a spinal deformative, wherein said patient includes a first vertebra and a second vertebra, the first vertebra having a generally vertically extending first peripheral wall and a first cortical bone endplate and the second vertebra having a having a generally vertically extending second peripheral wall and a second cortical bone endplate, said method comprising:

selecting a spinal implant having an elongated body extending from said first terminal part and said second terminal part, said body defining a longitudinal axis and having an upper surface and a lower surface wherein the first upper surface and the second lower surface are arcuate along the longitudinal axis and wherein said implant includes a first bearing surface adapted to bear against a portion of the first cortical bone endplate proximate to the first peripheral wall and an opposite second bearing surface adapted to bear against the second cortical bone endplate proximate to the second peripheral wall; and

surgically implanting the implant between the first vertebra and the second vertebra.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 comprising removing a portion of the first cortical bone endplate and a portion of the second cortical bone endplate with a tool having cutting portion including a pair of generally parallel opposing surfaces, each surface having a first arcuate cutting edge corresponding to the upper surface of the implant and an opposite second arcuate cutting edge corresponding to the lower surface of the implant.

29. (Added) The method of claim 27 wherein said spinal implant is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: titanium, a composite, a ceramic, bone, stainless steel, and surgical steel.